

**National Transportation Safety Board
Washington, DC 20594**

Brief of Accident

Adopted 11/09/1992

NYC90FA060							
File No. 1121		01/29/1990		SCHUYLER FALLS, NY		Aircraft Reg No. N854FE	
						Time (Local): 20:33 EST	
Make/Model: CESSNA / 208B						Fatal	Serious
Engine Make/Model: P&W / PT6A-114						Crew	Minor/None
Aircraft Damage: Destroyed						1	0
Number of Engines: 1						Pass	0
Operating Certificate(s): On-demand Air Taxi						0	0
Name of Carrier: E.W. WIGGINS AIRWAYS, INC.							
Type of Flight Operation: Non-scheduled; Domestic; Cargo							
Reg. Flight Conducted Under: Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter							
Last Depart. Point: PLATTSBURGH , NY						Condition of Light: Night/Dark	
Destination: SYRACUSE , NY						Weather Info Src: Weather Observation Facility	
Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip						Basic Weather: Instrument Conditions	
						Lowest Ceiling: 300 Ft. AGL, Obscured	
						Visibility: .00 SM	
						Wind Dir/Speed: 090 / 007 Kts	
						Temperature (°C): -2	
						Obstr to Vision: Fog	
						Precipitation: Snow	
Pilot-in-Command		Age: 46				Flight Time (Hours)	
Certificate(s)/Rating(s)						Total All Aircraft: 4999	
Commercial; Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land						Last 90 Days: 125	
Instrument Ratings						Total Make/Model: 1482	
Airplane						Total Instrument Time: 450	

THE CESSNA 208B MADE A TAKEOFF WITH LIGHT WET SNOW FALLING, AT NIGHT. THE AIRPLANE REACHED AN ALTITUDE OF 700 FT AGL PRIOR TO MAKING A STEEP DESCENT, STRIKING TREES AND IMPACTING INVERTED. RADAR DATA SHOWED THE AIRCRAFT LIFT OFF POINT AND INITIAL CLIMB RATE APPROACHED THAT SHOWN IN THE FLIGHT MANUAL FOR SHORT FIELD TECHNIQUE. TWO OTHER CESSNA 208'S PRECEDED THE ACCIDENT AIRCRAFT FROM THE SAME AIRPORT, ONE 13 MINUTES PRIOR AND THE OTHER 3 MINUTES PRIOR. RADAR DATA SHOWED THEY CLIMBED AT A SLOWER RATE. THE ACCIDENT AIRPLANE HAD COME FROM A HANGAR AND WAS NOT DEICED PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. A PILOT FLYING A IDENTICAL AIRPLANE WITH A SIMILAR LOAD COMMENTED THAT HIS CLIMB RATE WAS LOWER THAN NORMAL. ANOTHER PILOT COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST WET SNOW OF THE YEAR AND IT WAS STICKING TO HIS ENGINE COWLING.

Brief of Accident (Continued)

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SCHUYLER FALLS, NY

Aircraft Reg No. N854FE

Time (Local): 20:33 EST

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT

Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. WEATHER CONDITION - SNOW
2. (F) WEATHER EVALUATION - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
4. (F) ICE/FROST REMOVAL FROM AIRCRAFT - NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
6. (C) AIRSPEED - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
7. WING,SKIN - CONTAMINATION
8. (C) STALL - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

9. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Findings Legend: (C) = Cause, (F) = Factor

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows.

LOSS OF CONTROL INFLIGHT AFTER THE AIRPLANE STALLED DURING CLIMBOUT. THE STALL RESULTED FROM A LOSS OF LIFT DUE TO A CONTAMINATED WING SURFACE. CONTRIBUTING TO THE ACCIDENT WAS THE FAILURE OF THE PILOT TO DE-ICE THE AIRCRAFT PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.